

The VALLEY HAM NEWS

The Voice of the Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

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Y-S ARC Web Page: <http://users.cwnet.com/ysarc/>

Y-S ARES Web Page: <http://www.ysares.org>

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CLUB OFFICERS

Pres.: Curtis R. Sylvester-José, KF6VFP
Vice Pres.: Herb Puckett, W6HBU
Secretary: Tricia Wilkerson, KG6PNC
Treasurer: Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

May 14-16 - Dayton Hamvention
May 22-23 - EMMCOMM West
Jun 19 - Kids Day
Jun 26-27 - Field Day

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Leonard Wilkerson, KG6PND
Manna Whelchel, KG6PNE
Lee Sheffield, KC6MCI
Paul Johnson, N6XVL
Ron Murdock, W6KJ

Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. - weekly net with swap shop and help sessions.

Second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. - the ARRL Sacramento Valley Section (UHF) Net.

Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. - weekly ARES net.

REPEATER TRUSTEE

Dave Gartner, WD6AXM

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board Meeting will be at Kalico Kitchen in Live Oak on March 6¹⁸th at 9:30 a.m. Come join us for breakfast at 8:30 a.m. before the meeting.

Bring your suggestions, gripes and offers to help as well as your appetite.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 6, 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast and Board Meeting
Mar 13, 9:00 a.m. - VE Session.
Apr 3 - MS Walk-A-Thon
Apr 17 - Bike Around the Buttes.
May 11 - Potluck

VE EXAMS

The next VEC session will be March 13th at the Cornerstone Free Evangelical Church in Yuba City starting at the usual time of 9:00 a.m. Four to five VE are needed for the testing. Contact Herb (W6HBU) if you can help out.

Please preregister with Clara Ansley (KC6JPP) if you are going to test, or if you know of someone who is going to test have them preregister. As always, walk-ins are welcome, but those who preregistered will be given priority.

Herb Puckett (W6HBU)

TECHNICIAN CLASS

The students of the technician class have completed the course and taken the exam. They did very well. We have six new Technicians and two people with CSCE's for the General Written exam.

One person failed the Tech exam the first time and then passed on the second try. Three people took the General exam and two passed it!! They now have 365 days to get their code done and they will be Generals.

It was very impressive, and we are quite proud of them.

Herb Puckett (W6HBU)

BOARD MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by the club Vice President, Herb Puckett (W6HBU) at 7:18 p.m. following a great potluck with an attendance of 27 people.

Clara (KC6JPP) made a motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting. Manna (KG6PNE) second the motion and it was passed.

Old business:

The club "Fox Hunt" is slowly taking shape. There is a possibility of using a sequential transmitter for the "Fox". Ron has mentioned he has a kit for the transmitter,. Lee has reluctantly kinda sort of agreed to "bird dog" the "fox hunt". There is hopes that things could come together in time to have one sometime in May. There will be more to come as the time grows closer.

The demo on the repeater for the May potluck is not yet a definite, but we are still hoping personal schedules of those involved in the demo will all them to do it.

New business:

From the desk of the Treasurer: Please remember when paying your dues to include the membership application. The application is to be sure that all information is current. Memberships sent in without the applications will not be processed until the application is received. Thank you

The new club roster is hoped to be ready for the April issue of the newsletter, so if you wish to be on the new roster with your current information then you need to have your dues and applications in before the end of Mar.

The club received a very nice thank you letter from the Cornerstone Free Evangelical Church for the donation.

The next V.E. session was scheduled for 3-6-04 and the next board meeting was scheduled for 3-13-04, but due to scheduling conflicts the V.E. session has been moved to 3-13-04 and the board meeting is 3-6-04 after a phone poll of all board

members, conducted by Herb (W6HBU), who agreed unanimously to make the changes.

The meeting adjourned 7:37pm

Submitted By,
Tricia Wilkerson, (KG6PNC)
Secretary

TREASURERS REPORT

1-18-04	Corrected Checking Balance	\$2021.07
Receipts Deposited		
1-27-04	Dues: W6YLH/N6RQP-KG6KJG	\$42.00
	Total: \$40, KG6KJG- Donation \$2	
2-10-04	Dues: KG6RXT (William)/KG6RXU (Richard Holmes) KF6CIT/KF6EIN W6HKB-KB6RHJ-KE6LW: Total: \$98, Donation: \$2	\$100.00
2-10-04	Reentered check 457 Total:	\$9.00 \$2,172.0
Bills		
869	CWNET - web site	\$121.88
870	Copy City - newsletter	\$11.22
871	Clara Ansley - 80 stamps	\$28.80
	Total:	\$161.90
	Checking Balance	\$2010.17
	Less Repeater Balance	\$677.00
	Less VE Balance	\$106.56
	Total:	\$783.56
Club Balance		\$1226.61
 Submitted By, Clara M. Ansley, KC6JPP Treasurer		

BIKE AROUND THE BUTTES

The 19th Annual Bike-Around-the Buttes to raise money for diabetes is coming up this April 17th. As you know the Bike-Around-the-Buttes has four bikes routes and we provide communications support on three of them. The four routes are:

A new 10 mile Mini Course along the brand new Sutter Commuter Bikeway. After a brief few blocks on city streets you get away from all the traffic on this newly paved cruise toward Yuba City and back again. Great ride for young kids or adults who think the other rides are just a little too far. There is a small rest stop 1/2 way through the ride.

A 17.5 mile Fun Course for novice riders to gain experience. The rolling hills of beautiful Pass Road with a total climb of 350 feet is followed by an all flat return along the south edge of the Buttes. Many pretty views with one fully stocked rest stop on the course.

The 40 mile Classic Course that started it all. Up through Pass Road which used to be the stage coach route from Colusa to Sutter, and then north around the buttes. Cruise by some historic sites as you keep the Buttes on your right and wind your way back to the start. Keep your eyes posted on the north side an you may still see remnants of the once loaded ICBM silos. There are four complete rest stops manned by smiling faces on this course to help you through.

The 100 mile Century Course for the diehard cyclists. This is a mostly flat course that is just ideal for the early season. You enjoy all the features of the 40 mile and you add some wonderful old time California flair.

Meridian is classic California city with a quaint little cemetery on the outskirts of town. The jaunt along the Sacramento River takes you up and down the levee 5 times with great views. A long narrow wooden bridge over the Teesdale Weir is worth the trip itself. This ride certainly shows much of the beauty we enjoy here in Sutter County. Being the longest course, there are seven full rest stops to make this a ride to remember.

The 100 mile course has a start time of 7 to 7:55 am. The others use an open start time of 8 to 11am. Lunch is from 11 to 2, and the course closes down between 3:30 and 4:30.

Herb Puckett (W6HBU) is again leading our efforts to support this worthwhile activity. Paul Johnson (N6XVL) is assisting him in recruiting volunteers. They could use 20 people to man the rest stops, SAG vehicles, net control and for relief and standby. Volunteers get a free lunch and a Bike-Around-the-Buttes tee shirt. If you are willing to help out contact Paul (N6XVL) on the repeater or Herb (W6HBU).

PRSIDENT'S MESSAGE

Aloha and greetings from the island of Oahu. Yep, I am off at work again in sunny Hawaii, freezing my tail off in a equipment room at 60 to 65 degrees for 10 to 12 hours a day. At least I get three weekends off this time.

I have been listening to my handheld in scan mode on 2 meters. Surprisingly quiet for the number of hams they have hear. Every evening at 7:30 p.m. the local ARES group has a radio net, with visitors invited to check in first. In the morning and again in the evening one of the local repeaters

is busy with road traffic reports. Other than that I seldom hear anyone.

Enough rambling for this newsletter. See you all in April when I get back.

73's
Curtis (KF6VFP)

ARES NEWS

The ARES group plans to put up an HF antenna on the roof of the Three Rivers Chapter building on Saturday, March 6 at 1 PM. Those interested in helping can contact Mike Colvin (W6CUJ) at 530-632-8080 or simply show up at the appointed time at the American Red Cross at 2125 E. Onstott Rd in Yuba City.

CLUB POTLUCK

About 27 people attended the club potluck this month, including most of the technician class students. We had a great time, everyone got stuffed on all the good food.

FOR SALE

The club has for sale:

1 each Yaesu FT-208R Handheld transceiver with desk charger and speaker-mic.

1 each Yaesu FT207RT Handheld transceiver with desk charger.

These are for sale at \$30.00 each. They do need new battery packs.

MS WALK

We are looking for 12 volunteers to help out during the MS Walk on April third. If you can help contact Paul (N6XVL) on the repeater.

FCC PROPOSES RULES FOR BPL SYSTEMS

This article is from the ARRL letter Volume 23, number 9.

The FCC this week released its Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) on Broadband over Power Line (BPL) systems. The 38-page NPRM--in ET Dockets 03-104 and 04-37--proposes amendments to FCC Part 15 rules to define so-called "access BPL," make rules specific to BPL systems and provide measurement guidelines for BPL devices and systems. It would make no changes to Part 15 emission limits for unintentional radiators, however. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says that while Part 15's current limits on unintentional radiators on HF may be appropriate for short-duration, narrowband emissions, they are inappropriate for the sort of long-duration, broadband emissions BPL would employ. He compared short-duration, narrowband emissions at the Part 15 radiated emission limit to a helicopter flying overhead.

"The noise is deafening, but is tolerable because it doesn't happen very often nor last very long," he observed. "To a radio user, having BPL in the neighborhood would be like having the helicopter hovering constantly overhead."

ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, offered an example most hams could relate to. "The limit for an unintentional emitter on HF is 30 uV/m at 30 meters from the source," he said. "If you take a dipole cut for 3.5 MHz and put it in a 30 uV/m field, you'll have a noise reading of S9 plus 16 dB at your transceiver."

The FCC proposal takes a broader view of interference. "There is significant disagreement among the commenting parties regarding the interference potential of Access BPL," the NPRM declares. "Amateur operators and amateur organizations in general are opposed to Access BPL and advocate emission limits that are lower than the existing Part 15 limits."

Still, the NPRM concedes, Amateur Radio operations "are likely to present a difficult challenge in the deployment of Access BPL in cases where amateurs use high-gain outdoor antennas that are located near power lines." Noting that power line noise already presents a significant problem for hams, the FCC said, "we therefore would expect that, in practice, many amateurs already orient their antennas to minimize the reception of emissions from nearby electric power lines."

The NPRM goes on to point out that because BPL has the capability to stay clear of specific frequencies, BPL providers can simply "avoid the use of amateur frequencies when in close proximity to amateur outdoor antennas." The NPRM also briefly mentions the possibility of interference to BPL systems from Amateur Radio, an issue ARRL and others raised in their comments on last April's Notice of Inquiry on BPL.

The NPRM emphasizes that under the proposed rules, operators of Access BPL systems would be responsible for

eliminating any harmful interference that may occur. The FCC says it believes current Part 15 emission limits for carrier current systems--in conjunction with certain additional requirements specific to Access BPL--"will be adequate to ensure that existing radio operations are protected against harmful interference."

Sumner suggested that, with licensed services and government users taking up large portions of the HF spectrum, protecting all licensed HF users could prove to be a nightmare for BPL providers. He noted, too, that while the FCC maintains that licensed services must be protected, the proposed rules place the burden of initiating corrective action on the shoulders of the licensed services. "And as a practical matter, the FCC's proposed rules offer no protection at all to mobile and portable stations," he added.

Sumner also said the ARRL would continue to combat the "misconception" that BPL systems are viable as a "last mile" broadband technology for rural dwellers. "In low-density areas, the economics just don't work," he said.

The NPRM is available on the FCC Web site in Microsoft Word format http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.doc or as an Adobe PDF file http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-29A1.pdf.

Interested parties may file detailed comments on the NPRM via the main FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>. The comment deadline is 45 days after the NPRM has been published in The Federal Register, and that is not expected to happen for another week or two. The FCC also is accepting brief

comments on the NPRM via its ECFS Express page <http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload/>.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/>. To support the League's efforts in this area, visit the ARRL's secure BPL Web site <https://www.arrl.org/forms/development/donations/bpl/>.

Membership Application: YUBA SUTTER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Type: New _____ Renewal _____

Member Information: (Full voting rights and privileges)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

ARRL Member? (Y/N) _____

Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

Associate Family Member (Living in the same household only)

Name: _____

ARRL Member? (Y/N) _____

Call Sign: _____ License Class: _____

Dues: \$18.00 (\$18.00 per year)

Associate Dues: \$ _____ (\$4.00 per year)

Total: \$ _____

Email: _____

Prefer Electronic Copy of Newsletter (Y/N) _____

The newsletter can be viewed online at <http://users.cwnet.com/ysarc/>. By selecting this option you'll receive an email telling you the new newsletter is online.

Signature: _____

Yuba Sutter Amateur Radio Club

c/o Clara Ansley, KC6JPP

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